REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed April 18, 2001, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance the prosecution, claim 16 has been canceled and a new claim 20 has been added. This claim 20 further defines the user-environment information in detail. The claim specifically connects the user recognizing unit and more particularly points out and distinctly claims the information storage medium. Claims 1-5, 12-15, 17-19 and 20 are pending in the application with claims 12-15 and 17-19 being withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, because these claims are directed to the non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,064 to Bertram in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,918 to Hopkins. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram patent in view of Hopkins as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,884 to Dedrick.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentable over the art of record for the following reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Applicants have recognized problems in the prior art. These problems amongst others have been set forth in the specification on page 4 lines 1-19. The present claimed invention offers a solution as set forth in the claims.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites the feature of a "storage medium being portable," amongst other features. It is submitted that the Examiner's assertion that one of ordinary skill would be motivated to form Applicants' claimed invention is respectfully incorrect. As the Examiner well knows, obviousness cannot be established by combining pieces of prior art absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination.

The most pertinent patentable features specified in claim 1 are that (1) the information storage medium is portable and hand-held; (2) the information storage medium stores dedicated user-environment information about a user dedicated operating environment suitable for a specific user; and (3) the user recognizing unit reads the dedicated user-environment information contained in the information storage medium and reacts to that specific user dedicated user-environment information to change the operating environment of the computer to the dedicated operating environment suitable to the specific user so as to fit with the user-environment information.

The advantages obtained by the recited features are that the information storage medium (4) is portable and stores user-environment information (5) about environment suitable for a user; when the information storage medium (4) is applied to the user recognizing unit (2), the user recognizing unit (2) can read the user-environment information by wireless local communication(5) stored in the information storage medium (4) and change the operating environment of the computer (3) so as to fit with the user-environment information (5); and this is done without the need for operating a keyboard or the like. In other words, by local communication with the information storage medium, the user recognizing unit can read the information storage medium and recognize the user-environment information such as characteristics, features, properties, preferences of the user. No mechanism to identify or authenticate the user is necessary. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references disclose these features as set forth in claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 20

The patentable characteristic feature specified in claim 2 is that the information storage medium is readable by the user recognizing unit by non-contact local communication while in a position apart from (for example, in front of) the user recognizing unit. Claim 3 defines the information storage medium as an ID card. Claim 4 recites that the user-environment

information includes an OS language which is displayed and usable application software. Claim 5 adds that the user-environment information serves as a password for the system. Claim 20 recites that the user-environment information stored in the information storage medium includes a dedicated operating system, dedicated application software, a dedicated keyboard layout and a dedicated display language.

The Bertram Patent

The Bertram patent describes a computer coupled with appropriate processor for processing logon commands. However, the computer in the Bertram patent needs some operation via a keyboard in order to retrieve and utilize the user profile. In addition, in the computer described by the Bertram patent, the function for retrieving and utilizing the user profile needs a communication between a client machine and a server, and depends on a communication-state between the client machine and the server, that is, the speed of retrieving and utilizing the user profile may be very slow when the communication-state is "busy", or the function may be impossible when the communication-state is "off".

The Examiner specifically states that the Bertram patent "fails to teach an information storage medium being portable wherein the information storage medium stores user-environment

information about environment suitable for a user." It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a portable information storage medium and the interaction caused without any communication to any server when the stored user-environment information is read.

The Examiner specifically states that the Bertram patent fails to teach use of an ID card with computer readable information which can be translated as a portable information storage medium. Applicants' claimed invention recites the storage medium as an ID card.

The Bertram patent describes a computer coupled with processor for processing logon commands. Applicants' claimed invention utilizes a portable, hand-held information storage medium which contains dedicated user-environment information. The Examiner already has recognized that the Bertram patent does not teach a number of Applicants' claimed feature. Additionally, the Bertram patent requires some operation via a keyboard in order to retrieve and utilize the user profile. Applicants' information storage medium is recognized by (for example, inserted into) a user recognizing unit for reading the information storage medium, (i.e., a card reader reading the card).

In addition, in the computer by Bertram, the function for retrieving and utilizing the user profile needs a communication

between a client machine and a server, and depends on a communication-state between the client machine and the server, that is, the speed of retrieving and utilizing the user profile may be very slow when the communication-state is "busy", or the function may be impossible when the communication-state is "off".

The Hopkins Patent

The Hopkins patent describes a type of removable medium that can store personal information for each user. Such a combined system requires some operation in order to retrieve and utilize the user profile. This is not necessary with Applicants' claimed invention because claim 1 recites that the user recognizing unit reads the dedicated user-environment information contained in the information storage medium and reacts to that specific user dedicated user-environment information to change the operating environment of the computer to the dedicated operating environment suitable to the specific user so as to fit with the user-environment information, which may include user dedicated operating system, user dedicated application software, dedicated keyboard layout and dedicated display language.

On the other hand, the Bertram and Hopkins patents describe a method for authentication of users by using smart media (data carrier), and service based on the authentication. However, the method for authentication is entirely unnecessary in the present claimed invention.

The patents to Bertram or Hopkins also require the personal identification or authentication in order to provide services. The reading system (verifier, host computer or server) must identify the user and have a kind of database to infer what kind of services it should provide with him/her according to the individual user. This (requirement of authentication or identification) is the biggest drawback of these patents.

In contrast thereto, the present claimed invention does not need any identification nor authentication. The reading system does not need any identification algorithm nor user's database nor secure communication. The services which each user wants is stored in that user's dedicated user-environment information contained in that user's dedicated information storage medium. The user recognizing unit just reads the information and gives services adaptively according to the information.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5 to allow these claims together with new claim 20 and to find the application to be in allowable condition.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

is invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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